Libya ready to talk with US, Britain on Lockerbie issue

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 19: Libya said on Friday it is ready to negotiate with the United States and Britain on avenue for the trail of the two Libyan suspects in the 1988 airline bombing over Lockerbie, Sco-

tland, reports AFP. "My country declared that while it had no objection to the two suspects appearing of their own accord before the United States or British courts - it was prepared to enter into negotiations with the countries in question, said Libyan Foreign Minister Omar Muntasser in a letter to the UN Secretary General released Friday.

The negotiations should be under the auspices of Secre tary General Boutros Boutros Ghali and the trial should be "Held in a neutral country to which the parties to the dispute had no objection, the letter said.

Libya has been under an air and arms embargo imposed by the UN Security Council since April 15.

The Security Council insists Libya hand over to US or British authorities two Libyans suspected of plotting the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am bocing 747 passenger jet over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people.

Muntasser said Libya had fully complied with UN requests and that the practical proposals that we have presented to you in this letter will remove any justification for the continued implementation of the embargo.

"The embargo has caused Libya great damage and a great ordeal," he said.

Four Libyans are suspected of being behind the attack.

Expulsion of Palestinians

Rabin refuses to change decision

JERUSALEM, Dec 19: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin stood firm in the face of widespread condemnation of the expulsion of more than 400 Palestinian prisoners, now stranded between Lebanese and Israeli army lines in south Lebanon, reports Reuter.

"We have no intention of changing the decision," Rabin said. Asked if the international reaction made him regret the move, he said. "By no means."

The European Community, the International Committee of the Red Cross and Arab States all denounced the expulsions UN Security Council sources said it was expected to adopt a resolution demanding the Palestinians' safe return to their homes.

High Court Justice would have talks on Sunday with two lawyers who filed a petition calling for the men to be allowed back because they were now trapped in a rain-swept

no-man's land.

January, 1993.

says AP.

ported.

MOSCOW, Dec 19: The new

government of Tajikistan on

Friday gave opposition mili-

tants 10 days to surrender or

face a massive crackdown in

the war-ravaged Central Asian

state, news agencies reported,

The ultimatum by new Tajik

leader Emomali Rakhmonov

said government forces will be

authorized to open fire at noon

December 28 on any anti-gov-

ernment fighters who do not

surrender their guns, ammu-

nition and military vehicles,

the Interfax news agency re-

to a new declaration of war be-

tween the loose alliances that

have battled for control since

March. A grouping of Islamic

and democratic parties took

power in September after forc-

ing ex-Communist President

The statements amounted

Israel Radio said an Israeli

Israel deported the 418 Palestinians alleging that they belonged to fundamentalist Muslim groups responsible for killing five Israeli soldiers. It was Israel's biggest expulsion of Palestinians since the 1967

Middle East war. The men were driven into Lebanon before dawn on Friday. The Lebanese army prevented them moving further into Lebanon and Israeli troops would not let them return. They vowed to stay where they were until Israel let them go back home.

The Israeli army denied that the Palestinians had been left in no-man's land, saying they were in sovereign Lebanese territory five km (three miles) north of Israel's south Lebanon security zone.

Taher Shriteh, a Palestinian journalist who works for Reuters and other news organisations, was taken to the border with the deported Palestinians but was then returned to the Gaza Strip and

WASHINGTON: US President George Bush (R) meets with the Palestinian delegation to

the Middle East peace talks, delegation head Faisal Husseini (C) and spokesperson

Hanan Ashrawi (L) at the White House on Friday. This round of the talks ended on

Thursday and is expected to recess until President-elect Bill Clinton takes office in

Tajiks set deadline for surrender

They were edged out of

power in November by an al-

liance of Nabiyev supporters,

former Communist officials.

ethnic Uzbek militias and

southern Kulyab tribesman.

The new government finally

gained control of the capital

Dushanbe last week, but fight-

Skirmishes broke out closer

to the city centres on Friday

between government and pro-

Islamic fighters, the Itar-Tass

news agency reported. It said

infiltrations continued over the

country's southern border with

Afghanistan, which is con-

trolled by Russian-led border

Friday called on Afghan leaders

in Kabul to help prevent illegal

The new government on

ing has continued.

guard units.

Rakhmon Nabiyev to resign.

released without explanation. He had been among 1,200 Palestinians detained this week after an Israeli soldier was kidnapped and killed.

Israel Television and Israel Radio reported that a list of the deported Palestinians was now available to relatives at official offices in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Army told Reuters it could not confirm the reports.

A general strike on Friday in protest at the expulsions close down the occupied territories, where hundreds of thousands of Arabs remained under curfew.

In two West Bank clashes, Israeli troops shot and killed one Palestinian and wounded three. Since a revolt against Israeli occupation erupted five years ago, Israelis have killed 973 Palestinians while Palestinians have killed 108

AP adds from United Nations: The UN Security Council late Friday unant

-AFP/UNB photo

crossings from both sides,

government of Afghanistan

with a request to abide by the

principles of good-neighbourly

relations and respect for state

sovereignty and stop violations

of the countries border,"

separatists in Georgia buried

the victims of a helicopter

crash last week that has aggra-

vated Russian-Georgian rela-

tions in the troubled Caucasus

Mountains region, Interfax

were buried in a mass grave,

according to local custom, in

the town of Gaduata in the

breakaway region of Abkhazia,

site of one of three ethnic and

political conflicts ravaging

The bodies of 59 people

Far to the west, meanwhile,

Tajikistan "appeals to the

Interfax reported

Interfax reported.

Georgia.

mously denounced Israel's deportation of more than 400 Palestinian fundamentalists and demanded their return, reports AP.

The vote was delayed for hours by US concerns over the wording of the resolution -Washington's latest rebuke of its main Middle East ally.

But US diplomats failed to persuade the council to also condemn the killings of Israeli soldiers and police, which led to the expulsions to Lebanon.

The resolution "strongly condemns" the deportations of the suspected Muslim fundamentalists, the largest mass expulsion of Arabs by Israel since the 1967 Middle East War. It also demands Israel "ensure the safe and immediate return to the occupied territories of all those deported".

The resolution also asks Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to consider sending an envoy to the area. Israel opposes UN intervention in its domestic affairs.

Khmer Rouge guerillas capture UN helicopter

PHNOM PENH. Dec 19: Khmer Rouge guerillas captured a UN helicopter carrying eight armed Uruguayan peace-keepers in eastern Cambodia, separated the men and cut off their radio contact with United Nations headquarters, a UN spokesman said today, reports AFP.

Their detention came just as the Khmer Rouge in central Cambodia released 46 L Indonesian peacekeepers on Friday but kept their truck.

Three Russian pilots contracted to fly UN helicopters. and a Cambodian interpreter were also being held with the Uruguayans near the Mckong river in eastern Kratie province, spokesman Eric Falt

The 12 had flown in an MI 17 helicopter to the site to meet Khmer Rouge officials in a pre-arrangeed meeting at tempting to the establish con-

tact," the spokesman said. The men's last contact with UN Headquarters at 6 pm (1100 GMT) on Friday indicated the guerillas would no longer let them communicate

by radio. The last contact we had indicated everyone was okay." Falt said. "We are trying to secure their release. First we

have to locate them."

Top union leader shot dead in Lima

Lima, Dec 19: Gunmen on Friday shot dead the leader of Peru's largest labour movement and seriously wounded his 16-year-old son in a Lima shantytown, police said, reports AP.

Three men fired automatic weapons from a speeding car at Pedro Hutica as he left his home with his son in the impoverished district of Los Olivos, police said.

Police could not say who was responsible.

Lightning kills 11 in Jakarta Lightning struck a village in West Java, killing at least 11 and seriously injuring 15, a news report said Saturday. AP reports

The daily Media Indonesia said 26 sand diggers along a river in Kertajati district, Malaengka regency, around 200 kilometers (125 miles) southeast of Jakarta, were waiting for

The report quoted local residents as saying they heard

US senator to visit DPRK soon: us

missing from the Korean War. AP reports from Washington. Smith, vice-chairman of the Senate Select Committee on POW-MIA affairs, said Friday plans to hold talks in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang on Sunday. The visit is taking

Smith, a New Hampshire Republican, will be accompanied by a Korean- speaking State Department official, Ken Quinones. No US diplomat and almost no lawmakers have vis-

According to US government estimates, 8,177 American

Russia to help remove Iraqi N-fuel: Russia is to help the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to remove nuclear fuel from Iraq and reprocess it in Russia, Itar-Tass news agency said on Friday, Reuter reports

UN Security Council resolutions.

After reprocessing, the nuclear material would be handed

seeing the destruction of Iraq's nuclear weapons programmes under terms worked out after Iraq's defeat in last year's Gulf

Saturday, AP reports from Seoul. Ministry spokesman Yoo Myung-hwan said normalization

would be announced during Foreign Minister Lee Sang- ock's three-day visit December 21-23 to Vietnam.

pand economic relations with Vietnam.

in its development projects. South Korea wants to use Victnam's resources and labour as a new base for its overseas investment

2 white US cops fired: Two white police officers were fired Friday for using excessive force to subdue a black motorist who turned out to be an undercover officer working on a prostitution sting, AP reports from Nashvile.

The officer was stopped Monday night by five of his precinct colleagues for driving an unmarked, police-issue truck with an expired license tag. Officers David Geary and Jeffrey Blewett were dismissed

during a hearing by Police Chief Robert Kirchner. Police department hearings for the other three officers, who remain on leave without pay, probably will be next week.

The chief said after the hearing that the officers' testimony showed the beating was not racially motivated. The FBI has been trying to determine if the black officer's civil rights were violated.

7 killed in Indian road mishap:

Seven persons were killed and five others injured when a treakker in which they were travelling dashed against a roadside tree at Malipara on the Calcutta-Madras National Highway, eight km from the sub-divisional headquarter town of Khurda in Puri district on Friday, according to the police, PTI reports from Puri.

The victims, workers of the Samyukta Samajwadi Party, were going from Talcher to Gopalpur, the sources said. The injured were admitted to government hospitals at Bhubaneswar and Cuttack.

from Jakarta.

a bus Wednesday when lightning struck.

screams after the lightning hit.

senator Bob Smith is planning to go to North Korea this weekend to discuss the fate of American servicemen still

place less than two weeks before the committee is scheduled to disband.

ited the communist-ruled northern part of Korea.

servicemen never returned from the Korean War.

from Moscow

The agency said Russian participation in removing the material from an Iraqi nuclear research reactor was in line with

over to the Vienna- based IAEA, Tass said. The IAEA, together with a UN special commission, is over-

ROK to normalise tie with Vietnam: South Korea will normalize diplomatic relations next week

with Vietnam to end their Cold War animosity that developed during the Vietnam War, Foreign Ministry officials said

The new ties will cap a year-long South Korean bid to ex-

Vietnam has tried to entice South Korean firms to invest

Klerk dismisses six generals controversial wing of the de-

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, Dec 19: President F W de Klerk dismissed six generals Saturday and admitted the military is waging a secret campaign against opposition groups that could include

killings, reports AP. De Klerk said some military operatives were still involved in unspecified illegal activities and the government was taking urgent steps to halt the operations. He claimed top government officials did not

know of the illegal activities. "I think I can say, yes, that the findings will lead to the conclusion that some of the activities have led to the death of people," a stern-faced de Klerk told a news conference.

Government opponents have long claimed the military

acts as a "third force" to destabilize opposition groups and foment violence in black townships that has claimed thousands of lives in recent

De Klerk, who has repeatedly denied allegations of military misconduct, gave few details but said the offences ranged from political sabotage to criminal activities for personal gain.

The investigation showed military personnel and "collaborators of the South African Defense Forces have been involved, and in some cases are still involved, in illegal and or unauthorized activities and malpractices," he said. He indicated Military

fence forces has been implicated repeatedly in political dirty trick campaigns. The admissions are likely to damage de Klerk's already

> negotiates with the African National Congress on ending white minority rule. Recent revelations of other scandals, including illegal activity by police and government corruption, have un-

> weakened government as it

dermined de Klerk as he tries to retain public confidence. Opposition groups have used the government's problems to force concessions in powersharing talks. Following the revelations,

the ANC is likely to take an even tougher line in upcoming Intelligence was the main talks on an interim administrasource of the problem. The

6 tribal youths buried alive in Tripura

AGARTALA, Dec 19: ATTF tribals yesterday buried alive six tribal youth and shot dead a village chairman in different parts of Tripura, reports PTI.

Tripura's Education Minister, Rabindra Debbarma told newsmen that the youths, reportedly supporters of the Tripura Upajati Juba Samity (TUJS), a coalition partner of the ruling Congress-I, were kidnapped from their homes and then buried alive at Christanpara under Gandacherra subdivision of south Tripura district to "teach them the consequences of supporting the TUJS.

The ultras also intimidated the villagers that a similar punishment would be meted to them, Debbarma said.

The ATTF militants also kidnapped and later shot dead the village chairman of Uttar Brajanagar Gaonsbha under Udyapur subdivision of south Tripura district, police sources

The chairman was a TUJS

In a separate incident, the insurgents waylaid a truck on the Ambassa-Gandacherra road and looted belongings of the passengers. However, the amount, of looted property could not be ascertained, police said.

Deng not feeling well: Yeltsin

BEIJING, Dec 19: China's 88-year-old paramount leader Deng Xiaoping is not feeling well, visiting Russian President Boris Yeltsin said on Friday, reports Reuter.

'I conveyed warm wishes to him. He's not feeling too well, unfortunately," Yeltsin told reporters. He gave no further de-

Yeltsin arrived in Beijing on Thursday for a three-day visit but was not scheduled to meet Deng, whose health is a constant concern both in China and overseas.

Deng has officially retired from all his government and party posts and no longer receives foreign visitors but he still holds the levers of power

Deng last appeared in public in October at the end of the Chinese Communist Party's 14th congress that endorsed his capitalist-style reforms.

His walk was unsteady and his hands here shaking when television cameras showed his arrival at the congress hall but he was well enough to chat with some delegates and managed to smile and wave to others. We stern diplomats say

Deng, like many other men and women at his advanced age, probably has his off days when he feels unwell.

Off the Record

Japanese women prefer to stay single TOKYO: Marriage has lost its cache in Japan, where more

than half the women who responded to a government survey. published Saturday said they were prepared to stay single. reports AFP. The poll, conducted in 1990 by the prime minister's of-

fice, suggests a growing disenchantment towards wedding bells among women, who traditionally quit their jobs once they marry to devote themselves fully to their husbands and Only 13 per cent now think that happiness and marriage go together, compared with about 40 per cent in 1972. Those

who say they can give marriage a miss accounted for 54.6 per cent of the survey respondents. Reasons abound for the shift, according to another government survey in 1991, Japanese women in the work force spent four hours, 17 minutes each day doing domestic

Chasing waves and babies is the latest surfing trend

chores, against 19 minutes for men.

HONOLULU: Chasing waves and babies on the surfing circuit is giving way to chasing waves and babies, reports AP. The latest surfer paraphernalia exhibited at the recent World Cup of Surfing included cribs, playpens and even a sandbox for toddlers on tour.

"I've seen a big change among professional surfers - definitely different than when I moved here 10 years ago when no one had children," said Australian surfer Tony Ray, whose wife and baby travel with him.

They're more conservative, more family oriented. he said of Wednesday's event on the North Shore, which was won by Britain's Martin Potter.

But looking after babies is no picnic at the beach for surfers at work or surfer girls-turned-mothers. ... for an air ticket and a job

COLOMBO: A Shri Lankan woman gave two of her children

to an employment agency in return for an air ticket and money to find a job abroad, the Daily News said Saturday, reports Reuter. It said a Shri Lankan magistrate had ordered that the chil-

dren, aged five and three, be returned to their father, who had not known of his wife's plans.

The father, Rathmalgodage Sirirsena, said he had come home from work one day to find his wife and two of their six children missing.

The father traced the children to the job agency but when he was not allowed to see them, he made a complaint to the police, Sirirsena told the court.

An unexpected Christmas gift LONDON: A woman whose handbag was stolen in August

got an unexpected Christmas gift when she won a prize in a lottery the thief had entered her for, reports Reuter.

The woman thief bought two Christmas trees with a cheque stolen from Jane Pearson and then used Pearsons' name and address when she bought a raffle ticket from the shop in Yorkshire, northern England.

Lincoln's fragile document on a rare pubic display WASHINGTON: Handled with white gloves, President

Abraham Lincoln's 1865 Emancipation Proclamation ending slavery in the United States was taken from its darkened vault Friday for a rare, five-day exhibition, reports AP. Bearing Lincoln's fading signature, the Civil War document

hasn't been displayed in more than a dozen years. It will go on exhibition December 31 through January 4 in the National Archives, where the Constitution and Declaration of Independence are displayed. The exhibit marks the 13th anniversary of the proclamation's signing on New Year's Day,

Because it is so vulnerable to damage, particularly from exposure to light, the document hasn't been shown to the public since 1979 and display is being strictly limited this time.

"We consider the Emancipation Proclamation one of the treasures of the archives," said senior conservator Catherine Nicholson. "The only way we can keep it safe for the next generation and the next century is to be very moderate in our exhibition."

China urges Israel NATO confident about Ukraine's giving up of nuclear weapons to stop expelling **Palestinians**

BEIJING, Dec 19: China has called on Israel to allow more 400 deported Palestinians to return home, a Foreign Ministry statement said Saturday, reports AP.

The statement, issued by the official Xinhua News Agency, said, "This act has violated the Geneva Convention and impaired the Middle East peace process." The Palestinians are funda-

mentalists whom Israel deported Thursday in retaliation for the abduction and murder of an Israeli border policeman by the Islamic fundamentalist group Hamas. The UN Security Council

voted unanimously late Friday to denounce the deportation and demand Israel allow the Palestinians to return. China is one of five permanent members of the Security Council.

BRUSSELS, Dec 19: NATO Sccretary-General Manfred Woerner said on Friday he was confident Ukraine would give up all nuclear weapons and ratify a key arms treaty, de-

spite delays by Kiev which have

provoked sharp US criticism, reports Reuter. Ukraine's representative at a meeting of NATO and former Warsaw pact members in Brussels said his country wanted international security guarantees if it gives up the weapons on its soil which were once part of the Soviet nuclear

arsenal. "I wouldn't call it reassuring," Woerner told a news conference after the meeting. But he added: "I am confident that we can convince the Ukraine to stick to its publicised intention of giving up the weapons."

The Ukraine representative, Voludymyr Vassylendko did not make clear at the meeting who should give security guarantees or whether

they should come before the country finally gets rid of the

nuclear arms, officials said. In Kiev, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoly Zlenko accused western countries of using threats to push his country into ratifying the arms

Speaking to reporters in parliament, he did not single out any specific country in his criticism. But his comments followed

US Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger warning to Ukraine on Thursday that relations with Washington would deteriorate if it continued to delay ratifying a special annexe to the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START).

Washington also wants Ukraine to join the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as a non-nuclear state. "It is in the interest of all,

including Ukraine, to adhere

to the NPT as a non-nuclear

state and to ratify the START

agreement," Woerner said. Zlenko told Eagleburger earlier this week the Kiev parliament would not be able to

act on these issues until the start of next year at the earli-The START agreement was originally negotiated between the United States and the Soviet Union. It slashes their

arsenals of long-range nuclear

With the breakup of the Soviet Union, the United States had to address the question of nuclear weapons stationed on the territory of three newly-independent non-Russian republics - Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan. Earlier this year, it negoti-

weapons by about a third.

ated an annexe to start with each under which the nuclear weapons on their soil would be transferred to Russia and the three would declare themselves non-nuclear states. Belarus and Kazakhstan have ratified the treaty.



BRUSSELS: US Secretary of State Lawrence S Eagleburger (R) speaks with British Ambassador John Weston (C) and Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin (L) while Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitally Tchourkine (C rear) chats in background with US Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew (R rear) prior to the Foreign Ministers meeting of the - AFP/UNB photo North Atlantic Cooperation Council on Friday.

\$200m Marcos' deposit to be transferred MANILA, Dec 19: The gov-

crnment and lawyers of former First Lady Imelda Marcos have agreed to transfer 200 million dollar of Marcos deposits in Swiss Banks to the Philippines. Marcos's Chief negotiator said here today reports

this would be the first of 356 million dollar in Marcos's Swiss Bank deposits to be transferred to the Philippines and held in Escrow. The Swiss funds were pre-

Lawyer Antonio Coronel said

Manila which alleged the money was part of government funds that deposed dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his wife looted from state coffers before he was ousted in a popular revolt in 1986. Goco could not be con-

viously frozen at he request of

tacted for comment.